



**kerk**  
**in actie**

Believing  
in sharing



Together we are the church in action. Inspired by Jesus Christ, we want to share what has been given to us. Our goal is to offer hope to people all over the world and help them achieve their full potential.

# Our inspiration

We are the Protestant Church in action, part of a worldwide community of people who are committed to God and each other. We are moved and inspired by Jesus Christ and the Bible's call to carry each other's burdens, to take care of widows and orphans, prisoners and refugees.

It is our calling to share what we have received. Believing that everyone is created in God's image, we value all people. The church is in action everywhere: from the heart of the city of Rotterdam to remote villages in Uganda. Wherever people persevere in their faith in the face of oppression, welcome refugees with open arms, stand up for children in need, care about minorities, and embrace those who are excluded.



[www.kerkinactie.nl](http://www.kerkinactie.nl) (Dutch) · [www.protestantsekerk.nl/english](http://www.protestantsekerk.nl/english)

Johan Wijnhorst



#### **Church in our neighborhood**

"There is so much need and inner turmoil. This affects me. People do not know where to go with their concerns and questions. We want the church in our neighborhood to be there for the people around us. Even a few people can do a lot."

*Johan Wijnhorst is a deacon in Alphen aan de Rijn. More than 1600 congregations are active in the Protestant Church.*

# Protestant Church

The Protestant Church in the Netherlands has the most members of all the Protestant churches in the country. It is the continuation of three former churches: the Dutch Reformed Church, the Reformed Churches in the Netherlands, and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in the Kingdom of the Netherlands. The Protestant Church in the Netherlands was founded on May 1, 2004.

A Protestant congregation can be found in nearly every city, town and village in the Netherlands. These local churches are communities of people who are united by their faith in Jesus Christ. Around two million members and over 1600 local congregations are active on behalf of their fellow men and women, near and far. No one is excluded. All are welcome. Kerk in Actie is the diaconal and

missionary organization of the Protestant Church in the Netherlands and supports the congregations in their diaconal and missionary tasks. Kerk in Actie maintains contact with churches and organizations in more than 35 countries worldwide on their behalf. These Dutch congregations support Kerk in Actie with finances, but also with voluntary activities and prayer, because we are the church in action together.

# Partners

Kerk in Actie is member of the ACT Alliance (Action by Churches Together), which consists of over 140 churches and diaconal organizations worldwide. It is associated with the World Council of Churches and focuses on humanitarian aid, development, advocacy, and mission

Kerk in Actie is also a member of Eurodiaconia, an association of European diaconal organizations. The Council of Churches in the Netherlands is a partner of Kerk in Actie. Kerk in Actie coordinates its worldwide work in five regional offices together with ICCO (interchurch organization for development cooperation). At the request of our local partners,

several ecumenical co-workers of Kerk in Actie are working abroad at different locations. The co-workers often support work in theology and education. They are a bridge between Dutch congregations and congregations worldwide and facilitate ecumenical learning across borders.



# Our approach

From its Global Office in the Netherlands, Kerk in Actie offers services to local churches and partner organizations, both in the Netherlands and abroad, on the basis of equality, reciprocity, and partnership.

## We connect

We serve the church worldwide by bringing together congregations, organizations, and people who want to share what they have received, like money, inspiration, and learning in faith. We work as brokers, for example by facilitating a partnership program by bringing 34 synods in Indonesia together or a National Deacons' Day in the Netherlands.

## We share

We serve the church by sharing what we have received: money, knowledge, experience, and time. We do this at home and abroad. We encourage others to share too, for example by collecting money or by doing voluntary work.

## We support

We serve the church by providing advice, inspiration, and materials to people and congregations all over the world. Church social services, committees for global ministries, and partner organizations can count on our commitment, staff and financial support.

## We identify

We serve the church by identifying abuse, oppression and injustice worldwide. We expose these issues and act on them, thus serving as a voice for those who are not heard in the public and political arena.



“Former students who have studied in Hong Kong live and work in Cambodia now. Forty years after the terrible massacre by the Khmer Rouge, people in Cambodia are still traumatized. One of the former students is giving training for new pastors and peace education and assistance to families. He is helping to rebuild the church and society.”

*Tjeerd de Boer works as a lecturer at the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Hong Kong. He is an ecumenical co-worker for Kerk in Actie in Hong Kong. You can subscribe to blogs of our colleagues in the south through [www.kerkinactie.nl](http://www.kerkinactie.nl).*



*Tjeerd de Boer*

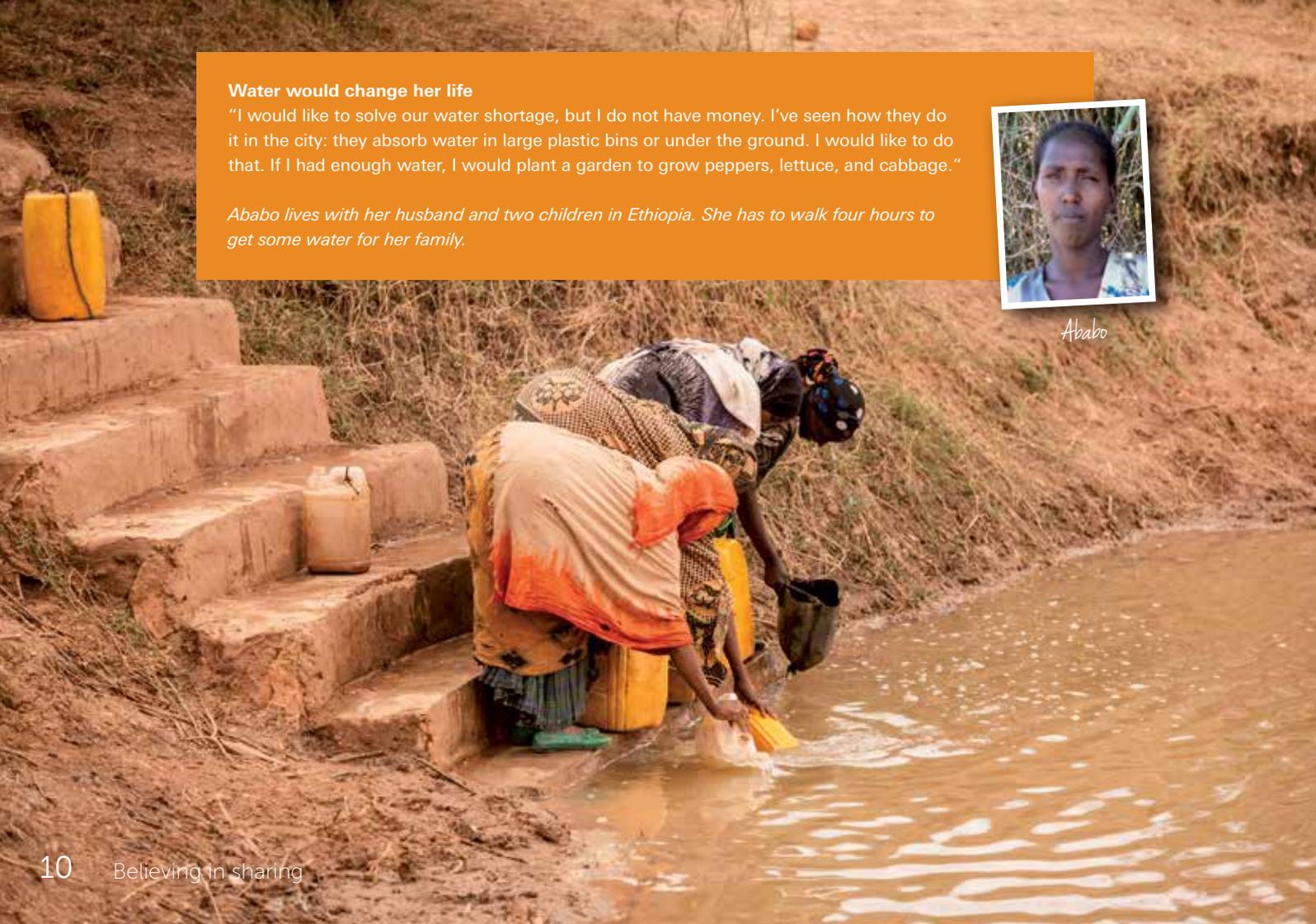
### **Water would change her life**

"I would like to solve our water shortage, but I do not have money. I've seen how they do it in the city: they absorb water in large plastic bins or under the ground. I would like to do that. If I had enough water, I would plant a garden to grow peppers, lettuce, and cabbage."

*Ababo lives with her husband and two children in Ethiopia. She has to walk four hours to get some water for her family.*



*Ababo*



# What we do

Globally, we take action against poverty and injustice. In the Netherlands and approximately 35 other countries, we support hundreds of projects. We have the following key areas of operation:

- **Believing against oppression.** We actively support faith communities to build bridges and work towards reconciliation. These communities play an indispensable role in particular where conflicts or tensions have a religious character.
- **Strengthening local religious communities.** Worldwide, local churches and organizations are committed to vulnerable people. To give people hope and perspective again, they not only share money and goods, but also faith and inspiration.
- **Emergency assistance before, during and after disasters.** Often the most vulnerable people are the first and worst affected by a disaster or conflict. We offer emergency relief to save lives, in reconstruction we rebuild livelihoods, and we work to prevent and mitigate disasters by strengthening people's resilience and preparedness to respond to disasters.
- **Children at risk.** We offer hope to children who are abused or exploited, or to those who are fleeing or living in poverty. The emphasis is on the fulfilment of their Child Rights.

## Meet each other worldwide

Kerk in Actie organizes trips to many countries. We visit partner organizations with a group of people from different Dutch congregations. These visits create a special bond and provide an experience in which the whole community can share. Where people meet, eat and pray together, with each other, something special happens and relations grows. Meeting each other enhances the feeling of how we form a worldwide community of people who believe in sharing.

## More information

[www.kerkinactie.nl](http://www.kerkinactie.nl) (in Dutch) • [www.protestantsekerk.nl/english](http://www.protestantsekerk.nl/english)

Kerk in Actie is lid van de:

**actalliance**

Kerk in Actie draagt de keurmerken:



Dit boekje is gedrukt op FSC®-papier

## COLOPHON

Kerk in Actie  
Postbus 456  
3500 AL Utrecht  
T: (030) 880 1456  
E: [serviceesk@kerkinactie.nl](mailto:serviceesk@kerkinactie.nl)  
W: [www.kerkinactie.nl](http://www.kerkinactie.nl)  
Bank account no.:  
NL 89 ABNA 0457 457 457

**kerk  
in actie**